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THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST; OR HOW A SOLDIER WAS SAVED.

“Blood has a voice to pierce the skies—
Vengeance, the blood of Abel cries;
But the dear stream when Christ was slain,
Speaks peace as loud from every vein.”

SOME years ago two soldiers belonging to one of the regiments of the British army stationed at Gibraltar, were one evening placed as sentries at the opposite ends of a sally-port, or long passage, leading from the rock of Gibraltar to the Spanish territory. Though living on this secluded spot, and with few opportunities of hearing the glad tidings of the glorious gospel, they had been led to read the sacred Scriptures together, and the still small voice of God, speaking in his own blessed word, was brought home to the heart of one of these men, who was enabled to rejoice in the pardoning love of God, and in the peace-speaking blood of Jesus.

On the evening alluded to, one of the officers, who had been out dining, was returning to the garrison at a late hour and coming up to the sentry on the outside of the sally-port, who was the soldier recently converted, he asked as usual for the watchword. The man, absorbed in meditation on the glorious things that had recently been unfolded to him, and filled with devout gratitude and love, on being roused from his midnight reverie, replied to the officer's challenge with the words, “*The precious blood of Christ.*” He soon, however recovered his self-possession, and gave the watchword.

His comrade, who was anxiously seeking the Lord, and who was stationed as sentry at the other or inner end of the sally-port, a passage specially adapted for the conveyance of sound, heard the words, “*The precious blood of Christ,*” borne upon the breeze at the solemn hour of midnight. The words came home to his heart as a voice from heaven; the load of

guilt was removed, and the precious blood of Christ spoke peace to the soul of the sin-burdened soldier.

He was afterwards, with others of his regiment, drafted for service in India, and proceeded to the island of Ceylon, where a long career of usefulness opened before him, and where he became the honored instrument in the hands of the Lord for the completion of a great and important work. Soon after arriving in Ceylon, his discharge was procured from his regiment, that he might fill the office of master of the principal school in Colombo, for which he was well qualified by a good education in early life. He soon acquired an intimate knowledge of the Cingalese language; and as the translation of the Bible into that tongue was lying in an unfinished state, owing to the death of the individual who commenced the work, he set himself to the task, and completed the Cingalese version of the Scriptures, which was afterwards printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society in four volumes.

The remainder of his life was spent in India, devoted to the service of his Lord and Master; and ere he was called to his rest, the converted soldier became acquainted with no less than thirteen languages.

Dear reader, are you, like the soldier on the rock of Gibraltar, in anxiety about your soul's eternal peace and safety? Then remember the words which the midnight breeze wafted to his ear, "The precious blood of Christ." Yes, it is indeed precious, for it is the blood of God's own dear Son. It is not the blood of a mere man, but of the God-man, of "God manifest in the flesh," and therefore possessed of infinite value and unceasing efficacy.

1. Remember that in the blood is the life, and Jesus, in giving his blood, gave his life, as the redemption-price of all his people; "for we are not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Pet. 1: 18, 19. Think of the dignity of Him who suffered as the victim, and will you not say that his blood is precious? Remember that in the blood only is safety. Read Exodus 12th, and you will see that when the angel of death was marching through the land of Egypt, every Israelite was safe; but his safety was secured by the blood sprinkled on the lintels. So with all the Israel of God. They shall be safe in the day of the Lord's

vengeance; but it will be because Christ their Passover has been sacrificed for them, and the blood of that precious Passover Lamb has been applied to each heart and conscience.

2. Remember that in the blood only there is *cleansing*. It is not to be found in the waters of baptism, or in tears of sorrow and remorse, or in any Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus; but it is the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, that alone cleanseth from all sin. 1 John, 1: 7. Apply to it in faith; wash there, and you will be clean; the leprosy of your foulest transgressions will be taken away. "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9: 13, 14.

3. Remember that in the blood only there is *peace*. You will not find it in yourself, or in your doings. No penance or pilgrimage can procure it; but remember that it is Jesus who has made peace through the blood of his cross. Col. 1: 20. No peace for a guilty conscience, no rest for a distressed, sin-burdened soul, but in the peace-speaking blood of the Lamb of God. True, solid, lasting peace can only flow from a sense of forgiveness, and this again can only be found in Jesus, "in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Eph. 1: 7. "He is our peace." Eph. 2: 14.

4. Remember that by blood only is there *access to God, and boldness to enter into his presence*. In no other way can you approach God acceptably, than by faith in the blood of his Son. Abel came in this way, and was accepted; Cain, in his own way, and was rejected. The high-priest among the Jews on entering the holy place made with hands, which was but the figure of the true, durst not appear there without blood; and sinners who by grace are made kings and priests unto God, have boldness to enter into the holiest only by the blood of Jesus. Heb. 10: 19. It was only at the mercy-seat, *sprinkled with blood*, that the high-priest, as the representative of the people, could meet God and find him propitious. So now, poor sinners find a reconciled Father only through Jesus, the propitiation for our sins.

5. Remember that on the blood that Jesus shed *depends*

the efficacy of his intercession. When the high-priest among the Jews entered the holiest of all, as the intercessor for the people, he went not without blood; and once every year the altar of incense, according to divine command, was to be sprinkled with the blood of atonement. Exod. 30: 10. Now the high-priest at the altar of incense typified the Lord Jesus as the great intercessor of his people, and when he entered into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us, he entered with his own blood, and with that he pleads for poor sinners, while ever living to make intercession for us. Heb. 9: 12. Atonement and intercession are inseparable, and none can be interested in the latter who are not depending on the former.

6. Finally, Remember that to the blood of Jesus the *redeemed in heaven attribute their glorious position.* When John caught a glimpse of them in vision, and inquired whence came they, he received for answer, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. *Therefore* are they before the throne of God," etc. Rev. 7: 14. And in that new song that is ever sung, they proclaim the same truth as they sing, "Thou art worth to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" Rev. 5: 9, 10.

Dear reader, may the Holy Spirit sweetly reveal to you the value and efficacy of the blood of Jesus. Trust in it for safety—apply to it for cleansing—depend on it for peace—plead it in your approach to the mercy seat—confide in the intercession of Him who shed it; and then, out of a heart filled with devout gratitude and praise, will you be ready ever to unite in the apostolic ascription, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1: 5, 6.

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